

## Twenty-eight additions to Archer & Godman's 'Birds of British Somaliland and the Gulf of Aden'

by *D. A. Baird*

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Archer & Godman published a 'Full List of Birds' of British Somaliland and the Gulf of Aden (1937, Vol. 1. lxxix-xci) containing 422 species and sub-species, updated and revised in Vol. 3 (1961) to contain 451 species and sub-species. Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1952, 1955) acknowledged Archer & Godman as one of the many sources of their information, referring presumably to the original 2 volumes (1937) and possibly also to unpublished notes. A number of the additional species referred to in the list which follows are recorded by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (M.P.G) as occurring in Somaliland (or British Somaliland) from information presumably arising from sources other than Archer & Godman. Where this is so, mention is made in the list which follows.

Recently I have been able to write up my field notes amassed 1949-55 while in what was then the Somaliland Protectorate. My duties restricted my opportunity for field study and, as a result, I was never able to visit many parts of the Protectorate. Only once was I able to explore the juniper forests of Erigavo and the Erigavo escarpment and then only for part of one day. My acquaintance with the Gulf of Aden coast line was limited to short, though repeated, visits to the townships of Berbera and Zeilah. I never travelled in the Haud or Guban except when crossing the latter en route for Berbera from Hargeisa and I never reached Mt. Wagar and the other high plateaux. Nevertheless I was able to identify 278 species during my 6 years residence.

Gordon Clarke, with the Somaliland Scouts between 1953-56 and 1957-59, presented me in 1968 with a most excellent typescript volume of his notes in which he records 302 species, including a considerable number from parts of the country which I never had occasion to visit. Clarke's list contained 65 species not on mine and my list included 41 species not recorded by him. We were thus able, between us, to account for 343 species, 28 being additions to Archer & Godman's 1961 list, bringing their 'Full List' up to 479 species and sub-species. What follows are short notes on these 28 additional species. I have considered it unnecessary to provide a description of each bird as I was already familiar with most of them in Nyasaland (now Malawi), while in most cases Clarke's notes provide good descriptions.

*Pelecanus onocrotalis* White Pelican.

Clarke saw 2 on the sea at Sebawanak on 14.xii.58, conspicuous in their black and white plumage in contrast to the greyish sameness of the smaller Pink-backed Pelican *P. rufescens*.

*Ardea melanocephala* Black-headed Heron.

Baird saw a pair sitting in a tree at Gadkayogol, August 1952. On 19.viii.54, accompanied by his son, John Baird, he saw another pair at Bihendula.

*Bubulcus ibis* Cattle Egret.

Baird reported a single bird on 14.vi.52 in his garden in Hargeisa feeding

alongside a neighbour's grazing horse. It remained for several hours, appearing briefly the same evening on a nearby acacia tree. On 14.ii.54, 5-6 birds were seen at the stock watering point in the town of Berbera. John Baird saw yet another on the tug at Hargeisa on 8.viii.54.

*Ardeola ralloides* Squacco Heron.

Clarke saw a single bird on the mud-flats at Berbera 18.ix.56, and also reports that A. R. Tribe of the Government Forestry Dept. collected a specimen at Abassa Ga-gab (location not known) at 1300 m, 5.viii.58. Baird saw one beside a rain water pool 50 km south of Hargeisa, 9.x.52, and with John Baird saw a solitary bird on a stretch of open water at Bihendula, 19.viii.54. Three days later they saw yet another in very poor condition by a dried up rain pool at Burao and the next day found it there dead.

*Ciconia ciconia* European Stork.

Baird has 3 records: 22.x.51, one on a large acacia tree near his house in Hargeisa; 1.iii.52, 4 seen at Tug Dila on the Hargeisa-Boroma road; 25.viii.52, 8 somewhere (unrecorded) on the Boroma road.

*Anastomus lamelligerus* Open-bill Stork.

Baird saw one over the cricket ground at Hargeisa on 2.viii.52.

*Plegadis falcinellus* Glossy Ibis.

Clarke records 2, wild and difficult to approach, at Sebawanak 13-14 Dec, feeding in the fresh water streams. He describes them as smaller than the Sacred Ibis, generally blackish-brown, glossed oily, with black bill and feet. Baird records a single bird beside the Shaab pier at Berbera, 18.viii.54.

*Francolinus rosvuma* Kirk's Francolin.

Where they occurred together on the Ogo, Clarke noticed that this species differed from *F. saphaena* by the stripes and/or spots on the flanks and breast being chocolate in colour in *rosvuma*, cream in *saphaena*. MP.G mention the sub-species *F. r. spilogaster* occurring widely throughout British Somaliland.

*Gallinula chloropus* Moorhen.

Clarke saw one on a pool in the Medishe tug, 27.v.56. A. R. Tribe, who was with him, claimed that the species bred there, having seen chicks in 1954 and 1955.

*Actophilornis africanus* Lily Trotter.

Baird and his son saw one at a grass-fringed water pool at Gadkayogol, 25.viii.52, probably an immature bird, as its back was not the same warm rufous colour as the flanks. It was whitish underneath and the wing tips were dark with an almost greenish hue. The top of the head and the nape were black while the face was white and the sides of the neck were yellow.

*Rostratula benghalensis* Painted Snipe.

Clarke collected a male at a water-hole at Bedr Wanak, 26.ix.58.

*Phalaropus lobatus* Red-necked Phalarope.

Clarke saw one at Sebawanak, 10.iii.58. Recorded by MP.G. as a winter visitor to the Gulf of Aden.

*Larus cirrocephalus* Grey-headed Gull.

Clarke collected an adult female at Berbera, 12.i.57, identification being confirmed by J. G. Williams. Now in the National Museum, Nairobi.

*Streptopelia turtur* Turtle Dove.

Clarke collected an immature bird at Bedr Wanak, 26.viii.58. Two were seen there on 1.x.58 and 4 days later another was seen at Adadleh.

*Merops apiaster* European Bee-eater.

Baird saw several while travelling between Hargeisa and Bedr Wanak 12.viii.52. Others were seen while travelling to Aubarreh on 25.viii.52 and at Sheikh, 21.viii.54.

*Caprimulgus fossei* Gabon Nightjar.

Baird, familiar with the call of this species in Nyasaland, is convinced that he heard it calling on a number of occasions in and around Hargeisa.

*Caprimulgus aegyptius* Egyptian Nightjar.

Clarke obtained a specimen at Sebawanak, 13.xii.58, subsequently identified by J. G. Williams and now in the National Museum, Nairobi.

*Colius striatus* Speckled Mouse-bird.

Clarke saw 6-7 in low scrubby bushes in the Horruf tug, near Boroma 3.xi.58. Tribe also reported (to Clarke) seeing them in the same locality. MP.G. mention the sub-species *hilgerti* occurring in British Somaliland.

*Prodotiscus regulus* Walberg's Honey-guide.

Baird saw one in the Government Secretariat compound in Hargeisa 31.vii.52, noting the characteristic 'bobbing' of the head which he had observed in Nyasaland birds.

*Eremopterix leucotis* Chestnut-naped Sparrow-lark.

Clarke came across a flock of 130-150 feeding on the air-field at Boroma, 24.v.58. He also collected 4 at Boroma on 28 Sep.

*Oenanthe lugentoides* Arabian Pied Chat.

J. G. Williams showed Baird a skin of this bird and also pointed it out to him in the ravines on the Erigavo escarpment. Williams claims that it is confined to the ravines on the escarpment above 1700 m.

*Oenanthe lugubris* Abyssinian Black Wheatear.

Seen by Clarke at Daloh where it occupies the summits of the escarpment. A pair with 2 fledglings, 24.v.56. Kreuger (1958) described the nest and eggs from material supplied by Tribe. MP.G. mention the sub-species *vauriei* as occurring in eastern British Somaliland.

*Hirundo daurica* Red-rumped Swallow.

Clarke reported 2, possibly 3, pairs at Tag'aire on the face of the escarpment below Daloh, 23-29.v.56. One pair was collected by Tribe which is now in the British Museum (Natural History). MP.G. mention the sub-species *rufula* and *scullii* occurring in British Somaliland.

*Delichon urbica* House Martin.

Clarke saw 10-12 on Mt. Wagar, 13-21.x.56 feeding over a glade high in the mountain along with Little and Common/Pallid Swifts. Attempts to obtain a specimen failed. MP.G. state that this species occurs throughout Eastern Africa.

*Lanius senator* Woodchat Shrike.

Clarke saw a female at Bogoljirreh, 5.xi.58.

*Lamprotornis purpuropterus* Rupell's Long-tailed Glossy Starling.  
Clarke saw one at Hariff, near Hargeisa, between 19.iii.56 and 10.vi.56; and another there on 27.iii.58 which stayed around until 10.viii.58 at least. He says it frequented massive old acacia trees in the garden at Hariff. Its call was a noisy 'dar-ratt' repeated 6-8 times.

*Petronia xanthosterna* Yellow-spotted Petronia.  
Clarke saw this bird at Sheikh, Wagar and Burao and westwards from there to Gebile.

*Vidua macroura* Pin-tailed Whydah.  
Clarke saw about 20 in a tug-side garden at Amoud, 24.v.58, about half of them males in breeding plumage.

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## The avifauna of the exotic pinewoods of Viti Levu, Fiji Islands

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### *Introduction*

The volcanic island of Viti Levu is divided into 2 by mountains running north-south. These mountains interrupt the prevailing southeast winds leading to heavy rain on the windward side and leaving the leeward land dry for most of the year.

The windward, wet areas are covered in tropical rainforest, while the dry side of the island is covered in grassland with remnants of a sclerophyll forest largely removed in the 19th century.

Over the next 3 decades the Fijian vegetation will be profoundly changed by forestry practice. The rainforest will be altered, by selective felling, at an increasing rate while some 55,000 ha of grassland will be planted with the exotic *Pinus caribea*. Such forestry practice may have far reaching consequences for the avifuna of Fiji. This paper reports on the native and introduced birds of Fiji which have managed to colonise pine plantations, both those on former rainforest and those on dry grasslands.